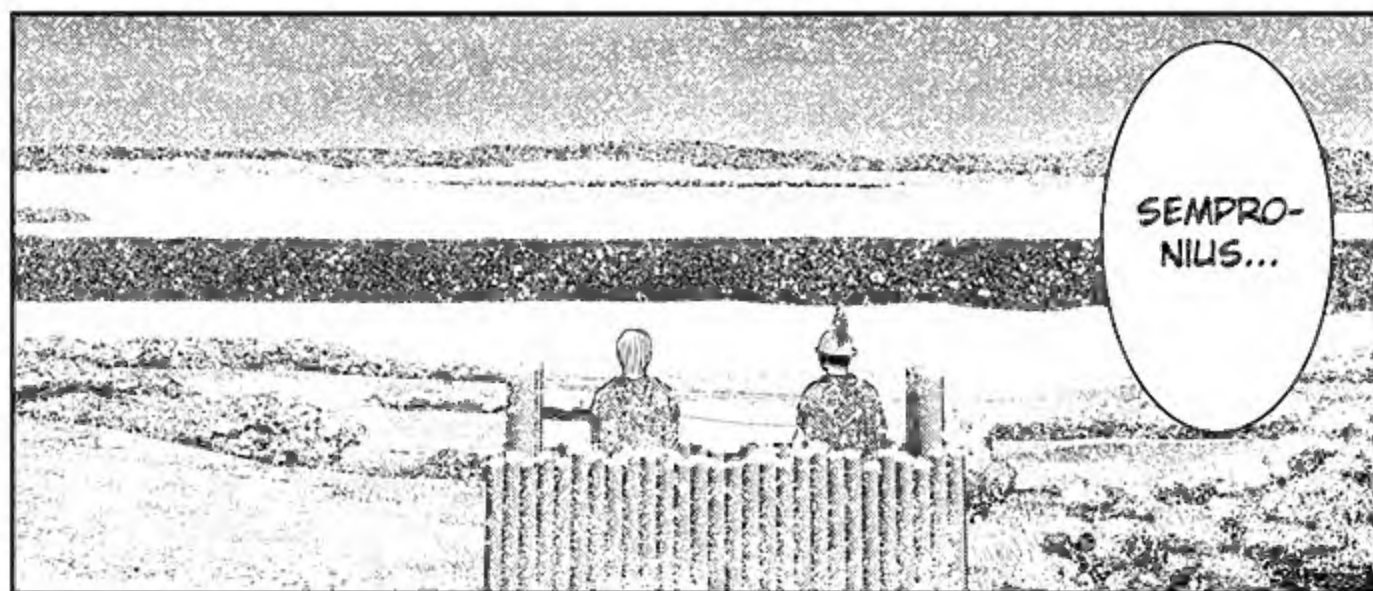


AUTHOR'S NOTE: ONE OF ROME'S MILITARY COLONIES, NOW KNOWN AS Piacenza.





ad astra episode 011

CHAPTER II



BATTLE OF THE TREBIA

- TACTICS OF THE GENIUS









IDIOT!  
STOP  
MOVING  
AROUND  
LIKE THAT!

IT'S  
NO USE!  
WE'RE  
ALL  
GOING  
TO BE  
KILLED!

BAHAH

HYAH!

FORWARD!  
WE MUST GO  
FORWARD  
AND CUT  
OURSELVES A  
PATH THROUGH  
THE ENEMY!

DIEEE!



THERE IS LIKELY  
NOT A SINGLE  
MAN IN THE  
ROMAN LEGIONS  
THAT CAN MATCH  
HIS INTELLECT.

WHAT A  
HORRIFYING...  
YET  
BEAUTIFULLY  
EXECUTED  
PLAY BY  
HANNIBAL.



IT'S  
DISTURBING  
HOW  
EVERYTHING  
SEEMS TO  
UNFOLD  
EXACTLY AS  
HE SAYS...

HANNIBAL,  
THE GRACE  
OF BA'AL...

HAS  
HE TRULY  
RECEIVED  
DIVINE  
BLESSINGS  
FROM THE  
GOD, BA'AL?



WE  
MUST  
MOVE  
FOR-  
WARD  
NOW!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER!?  
DO YOU  
NOT  
HEAR  
ME!?



HA-  
HAH!





THEY  
WILL BE  
DROWNED  
OUT BY THE  
PANICKING,  
DUMB  
MASSES.

EVEN IF  
THERE  
SHOULD BE  
SOMEONE  
OF IRON  
NERVES  
OR WIT  
PRESENT,

MAN IS A  
CREATURE  
WHOSE CAPACITY  
TO THINK IS  
PARALYSED  
WHENEVER  
SOMETHING  
UNEXPECTED  
BEFALLS IT.



ANY  
SEMBLENCE  
OF COMMAND  
SHALL BE  
COMPLETELY  
KNOCKED  
OUT.

AS THIS  
TERROR  
SPREADS  
AMONGST  
THE  
SOLDIERS,

AND  
WITH THE  
CESSATION  
OF RATIONAL  
THOUGHT, THE  
SITUATION WILL  
ONLY GROW  
WORSE, LEADING  
TO TERROR  
GRIPPING THE  
MASSES.

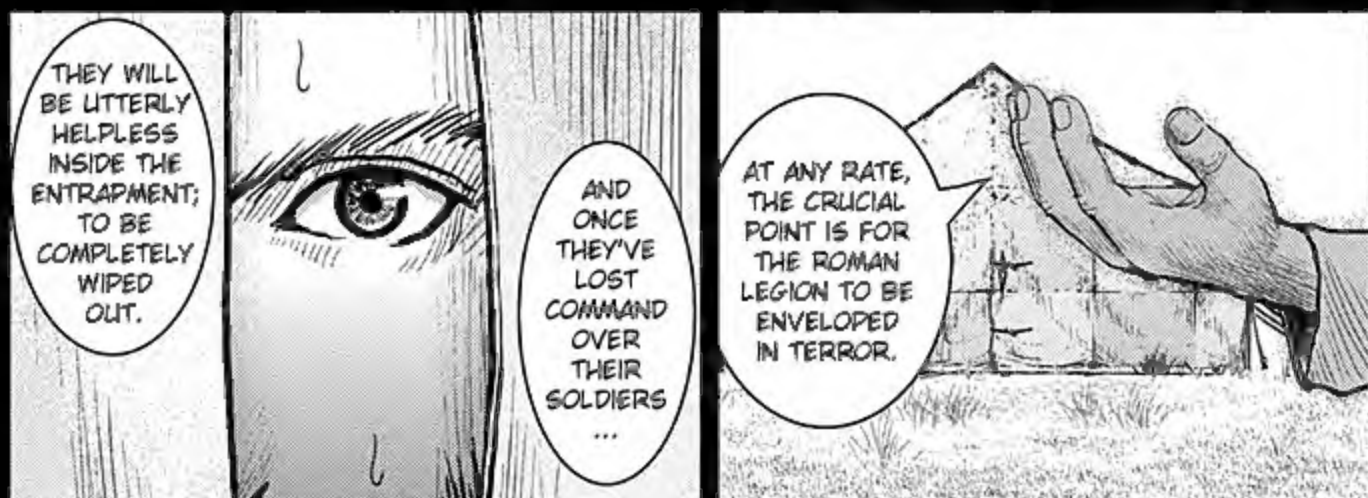


THERE  
WILL  
BE NO  
ISSUES.



BUT  
HANNIBAL...  
WILL EVENTS  
REALLY  
PROCEED AS  
SMOOTHLY  
AS YOU  
CLAIM?

AFTER ALL,  
WE ARE TALKING  
ABOUT THE MOST  
ORGANISED AND  
DISCIPLINED  
ARMY IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN.









WHO  
WOULD HAVE  
THOUGHT THAT  
HANNIBAL  
HAD LONG  
LEFT US IN  
THE DUST...

WE HAD  
ALWAYS  
BELIEVED  
THAT IT  
WAS ROME  
WHO STOOD  
AT THE  
FOREFRONT  
OF THESE  
TIMES.



SO THAT  
MAN PLANNED  
THE WHOLE  
AMBUSH  
AND THE  
FOLLOWING  
ENTRAPMENT  
...

ALL WHILE  
TAKING INTO  
ACCOUNT THE  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
EFFECTS AS  
WELL?...



WHAT  
A MAN...  
HOW ARE WE  
SUPPOSED  
TO GO UP  
AGAINST  
SOMEONE  
LIKE THAT?...



IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO  
RESCUE THE  
FOOT  
SOLDIERS BY  
OURSELVES  
...



SOME HAVE  
ESCAPED,  
OTHERS HAVE  
DIED WHERE  
THEY FOUGHT,  
HOW MANY MEN  
CAPABLE OF  
FIGHTING DO  
YOU THINK WE  
HAVE LEFT?

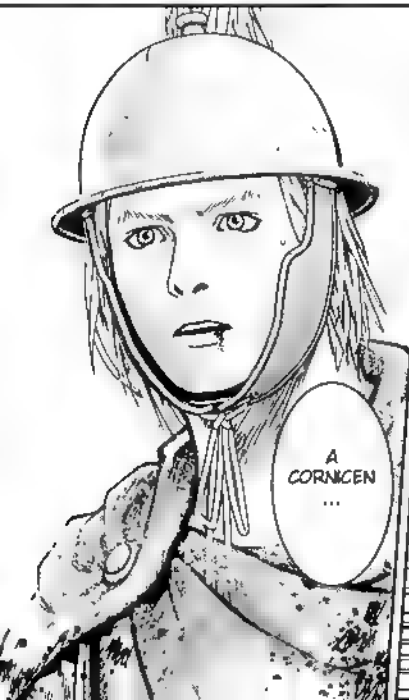
LISTEN  
TO ME,  
GAIUS OR  
WHATEVER  
YOU'RE  
CALLED...  
JUST LOOK  
AT THE SAD  
STATE  
OF OUR  
CAVALRY.







TL NOTE: JUNIOR OFFICER WHO USES A CORNIC (A TYPE OF HORN) FOR SIGNALING

















BUT  
WITH ONE  
OF THESE,  
WE MIGHT  
BE ABLE  
TO RESCUE  
AN ENTIRE  
ARMY.

TRUE,  
A HORN  
MIGHT NOT  
BE ABLE  
TO TAKE  
DOWN AN  
ELEPHANT  
...



WAIT,  
HANG ON  
A SEC  
HERE


WHAT  
IS THE  
MEANING  
OF THIS?



GAULS,  
TAKE THIS  
HORN AND  
HEAD FOR  
THE  
FORESTS

AS FOR  
MARCUS  
AND  
TITUS

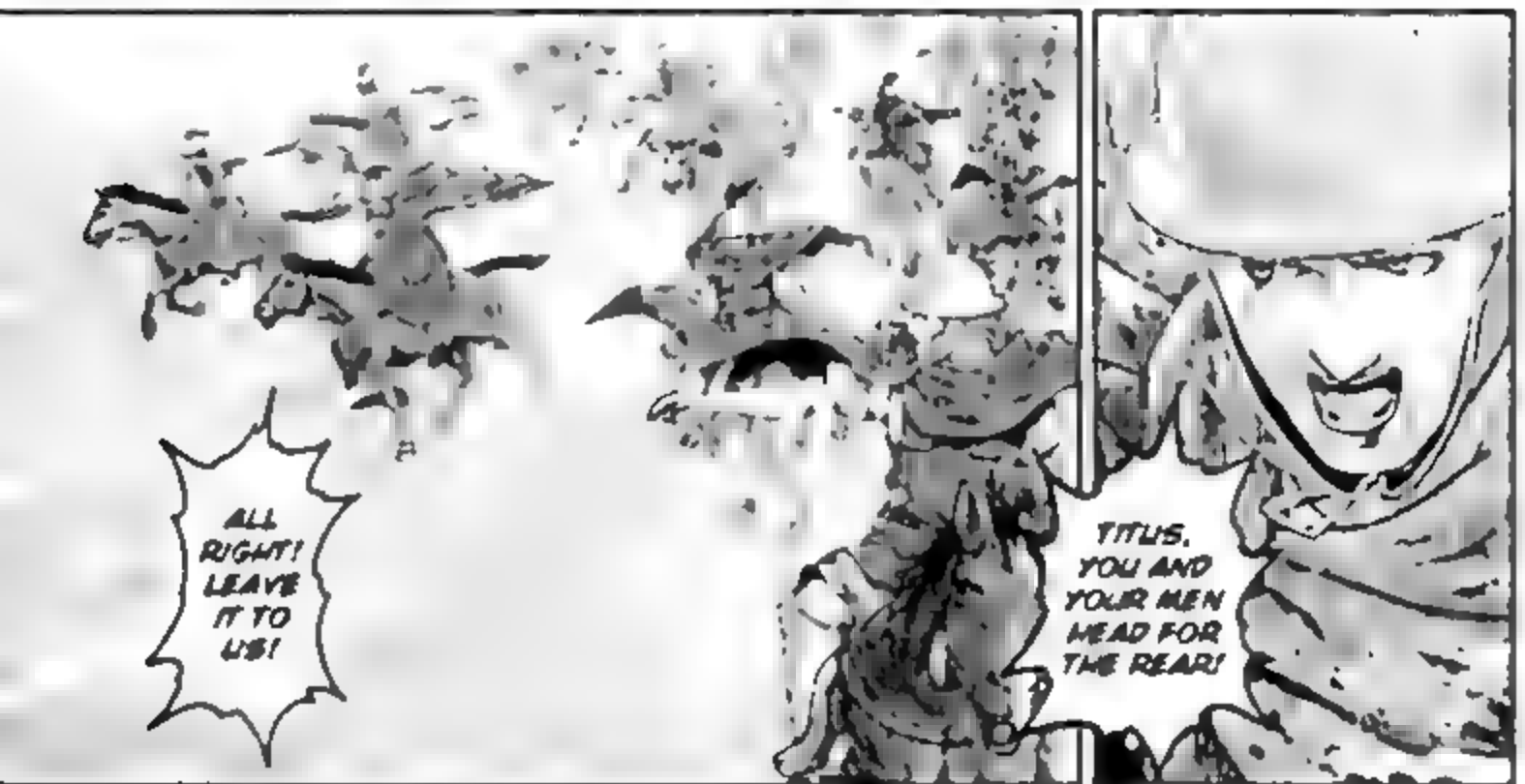
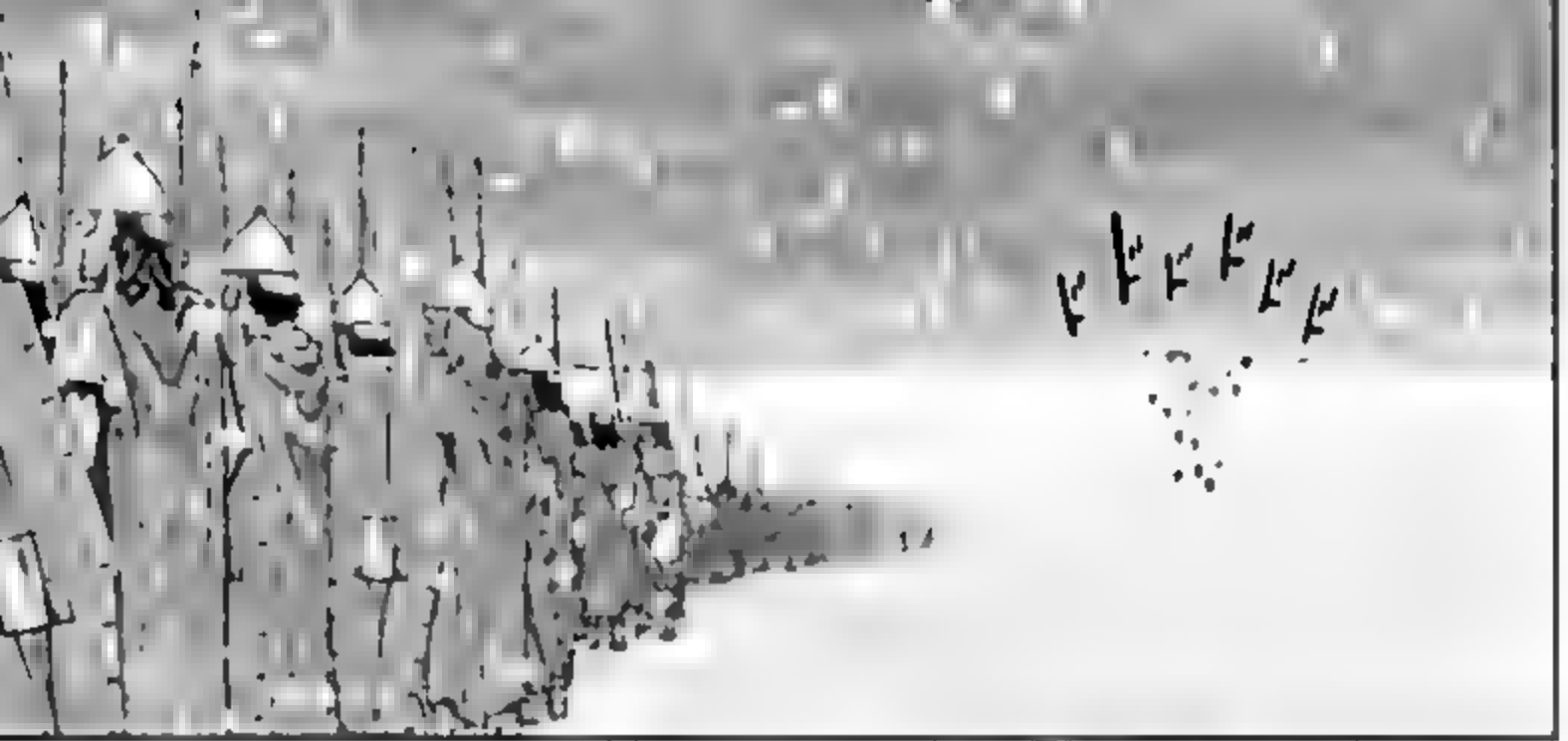
GATHER  
UP ALL THE  
CAVALRY  
SOLDIERS  
WHO CAN  
STILL MOVE



WHAT?  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?







ALL  
RIGHT!  
LEAVE  
IT TO  
US!

TITUS,  
YOU AND  
YOUR MEN  
HEAD FOR  
THE REAR!



WHAT  
WARM  
IS THERE  
IN  
THAT?

SCIPIO! DO  
YOU REALLY  
THINK THIS  
WILL WORK?  
SURELY ONLY  
CHILDREN  
WOULD  
FALL FOR  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS!

NOW  
COME ON  
LET'S  
GIVE  
THIS A  
SHOT!

REINFORCE-  
MENTS  
ARE ON  
THEIR WAY  
HERE!

WE  
HAVE  
REIN-  
FORCE-  
MENTS!

HEAR ME,  
EVERYONE!  
HEAR MY  
WORDS!

JUST  
HOLD ON  
EVERYONE!  
REINFORCE-  
MENTS  
ARE  
ALMOST  
HERE!

...  
!?





WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF ANYTHING TO THAT EFFECT.

IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A LARGE FORCE TO HAVE BEEN MOBILISED WITHOUT US CATCHING WIND...

SILENOS?



...IS IT TRUE?!

REINFORCEMENTS ARE COMING!

REINFORCEMENTS, HE SAYS...



YOU CAN HEAR THE HORN SIGNALLING THE ARRIVAL OF OUR REINFORCEMENTS!

CONCENTRATE ON YOUR EARS AND LISTEN CAREFULLY!



WE ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS...

WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE YOU ARE SPEAKING OF, SON OF CORNELIUS?



...THERE ARE NO LEGIONS THAT WILL BE COMING TO OUR AID.

7° + - 7° + -



WILL THIS  
REALLY BE  
ABLE TO SAVE  
OUR BOYS  
BACK THERE?

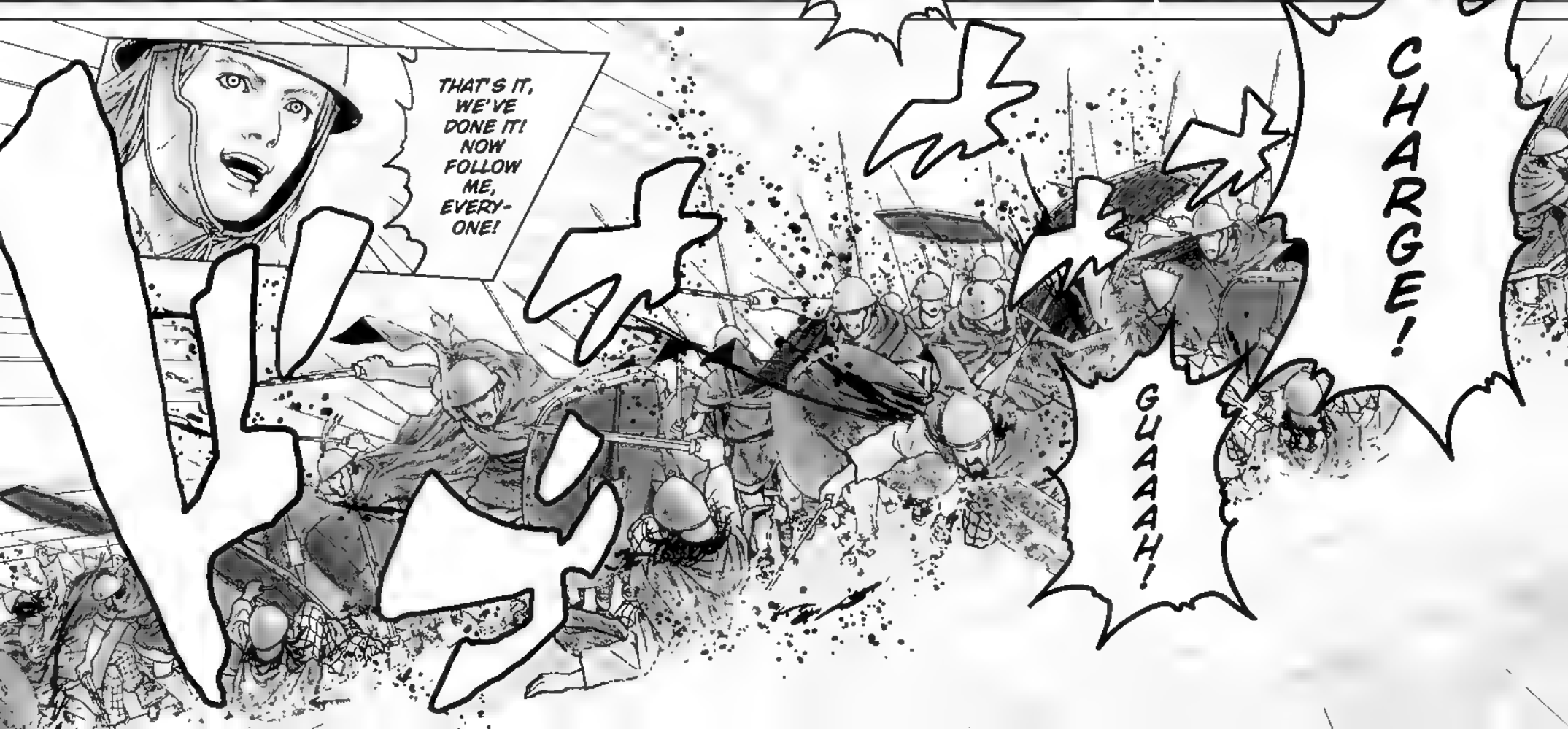
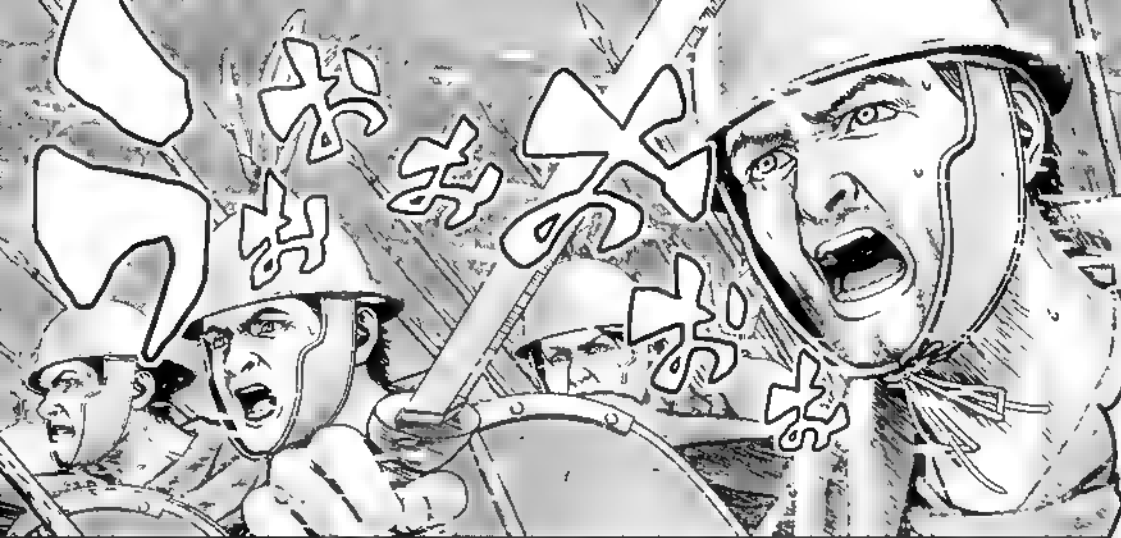
WHAT  
IN THE  
WORLD  
IS THIS  
MEANT TO  
ACCOM-  
PLISH?



















IT'S  
NO USE!  
PLEASE  
CONSIDER  
OUR  
SITUATION  
LOGICALLY!

WE  
MUST  
GO  
BACK!

CURSES!  
THE  
PATHWAY  
HAS  
CLOSED UP  
BEHIND US!



PLEASE  
UNDER-  
STAND  
CONSUL,  
YOU HAVE  
BEEN  
DE-  
FEATED.

BUT TO  
RIDE ON  
AND  
IGNORE  
OUR  
SOLDIERS  
IS...



I'M SURE  
YOU'VE  
REALISED BY  
NOW, THEY'RE  
NOT AN ENEMY  
WE CAN HOPE  
TO FIGHT...

IF WE  
WERE TO  
TURN BACK  
NOW, NOT  
A SINGLE  
ONE OF US  
WILL COME  
OUT ALIVE...



AND AS A  
DEFEATED  
COMMANDER,  
YOU SHOULD  
CHOOSE  
THE BEST  
POSSIBLE  
DEFEAT.

ALLOWING  
HIM TO  
SUCCESSFULLY  
EXTRACT  
THE ROMAN  
COMMANDER...

AND BY  
SHEER LUCK,  
WE JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO FALL FOR  
HIS CHILDISH  
DECEPTION.



AGAIN,  
THAT  
SAME  
YOUNG  
MAN  
FROM  
BEFORE...

THAT HE  
MANAGED TO  
ASSIMILATE  
HANNIBAL'S  
METHODS, AND  
IMMEDIATELY  
PUT THEM INTO  
ACTION...

...BUT  
IF WE  
WERE TO  
ASSUME

...  
THAT ALL OF  
HIS ACTIONS  
TODAY WERE  
A RESULT  
OF THAT BOY  
LEARNING FROM  
HANNIBAL...



IF THAT IS  
TRULY THE  
CASE,  
THEN IT'S  
POSSIBLE  
THAT THAT  
YOUNG  
MAN...

SHALL  
PROVE TO  
BE A DIRE  
THREAT TO  
HANNIBAL  
IN THE  
YEARS TO  
COME...



